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a case for recognizing the cream cheese wonton  
as minnesota's true hometown foodstuff





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### Contributing Writers

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Tony Libera, Michael Madden,  
Erica Rivera, Sheila Regan

### Contributing Photographers

Amy Gee, Alma Guzman,  
Lucy Hawthorne,  
Samson Melkamu, Shelly Mosman,  
Bobby Rogers, Tony Nelson,  
Colin Michael Simmons

### Art

**ART DIRECTOR** Emily Utne  
**LAYOUT EDITOR** Shelby Lano

### Production

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Dana Holmay

### Publisher

Mary Erickson

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**STAFF ACCOUNTANT** Du Nguyen Ho

### City Pages

650 3rd Avenue South, Suite 1300,  
Minneapolis, MN 55488  
**PHONE** 612.375.1015 **FAX** 612.372.3737  
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## NOTHING BUT HEMP

New surveys have turned up the exciting news that huge portions of those who suffer from arthritis have found some amount of comfort in cannabis.

A study of over 1,000 users published earlier this month showed striking results when it comes to how arthritis sufferers deal with their pain. CreakyJoints, an expansive online community of people who suffer from arthritis, conducted the internal survey which showed 57% of users have tried cannabis for their arthritis pain, and of these, 90% have found it beneficial to their needs. [1]

The study pertained both to CBD and cannabis products more generally, including more traditional marijuana use, which casts a fairly wide net when it comes to cannabis and pain. Still, cannabidiol, or CBD, tends to convey all the benefits of marijuana without the mind-altering effects it is known for.

The CreakyJoints study results can be seen in further detail using the link below. [2] In case you are suspicious, it may be noteworthy that the team that conducted the study presented their findings before the European Congress of Rheumatology, or EULAR, which meets in Madrid.

More official research has also shown the promise for CBD in treating chronic pain symptoms, especially those tied to conditions like rheumatoid arthritis. This works because CBD influences the body's endocannabinoid system, or ECS, to reduce inflammation and pain which results from it. [3] [4]

Symptoms of rheumatoid and other types of arthritis aren't limited to pain. The study also detailed how arthritis sufferers face insomnia, nausea, anxiety and a host of other issues in tandem with their normal chronic pain. [2]

CBD's prevalence across the globe has exploded in recent years, but studies and data go back over a decade. Leafly reports that the benefits of cannabis for pain, inflammation and arthritis go as far back as 2000. [1]

In America, this change is punctuated by the 2018 Farm Bill. The bipartisan legislation made hemp plants legal at the federal level, and since then states have been moving to legalize their own laws toward hemp and its CBD derivatives.

Regulatory procedure, best practices and other considerations at the federal level are still unclear for CBD infused in food and drink products under the Food and Drug Administration, but otherwise many states have been receptive to the influx of market interest in CBD.

If you or someone you know is interested in trying out CBD for arthritis or some other ailment, be sure to check out the knowledgeable team at Nothing But Hemp.

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## THE SHORTLIST



Scenes from another geektastic Convergence sci-fi blowout at [citypages.com](http://citypages.com)

TONY NELSON

### THE STAT SHEET:

**175**

Overdoses reported in the Twin Cities over the past two weeks, including 17 deaths

**2%**

Decline in abortions performed in Minnesota last year, according to the state Department of Health

**49**

Electric scooters smashed by vandals in St. Paul last week, according to scooter sharing company Spin

**1**

Eden Prairie's ranking among the best cities in Minnesota, according to the Chamber of Commerce

**“Well, it’s still more athletic than golf.”**

Reader Corwin Kruse responds to “Minnesota gets a new pro ‘Call of Duty’ team, with a possible arena in Eagan,” at [citypages.com](http://citypages.com).

### WE'RE NO. 17!

**THE 4TH OF JULY** tends to bring about a good deal of chest thumping about the “greatest country in the world.” But if you believe U.S. News & World Report, we're not even close.

Clearly the greatness of a nation is best measured by its quality of life. So the magazine collected data from nine categories, including job markets, income equality, political stability, education, and health. Canada, not surprisingly, finished first, followed by Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland.

America? We finished 17th. It seems that when you don't use our customary metrics—say, the stock market or our ability to blow things up—we're not so great after all. Unless you think falling behind Luxembourg is something to brag about.

### POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

Cheers in Minneapolis: Saga continues as bar **MANAGEMENT SUES THE BUILDING OWNER**

**A MINNEAPOLIS QUEER COUPLE** watches as their church, pastor have their credentials stripped

Sneak a peek into the new Minneapolis edition of **MUCCI'S ITALIAN**

St. Paul's **MAGIC NOODLE** is, in fact, made of magic

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# HARD-BOILED HAGEDORN

Minnesota congressman can't quite grasp the concept of caged children

**C**ongressman Jim Hagedorn of Blue Earth came face to face with some of his constituents in Olmsted County at a town hall event. Things started off orderly with reminders from the emcee to keep things civil.

But it didn't take long to hit a subject for which civility is a less than tenable response. A constituent wrote in a question saying she was "very concerned" about family separation on the U.S.-Mexico border. "This is causing emotional damage to these kids," the letter read. "How do you justify this government-sponsored child abuse?"

Hagedorn started by taking some of the lead out of the question. It's not "government-sponsored child abuse," he said. These detention centers were not "concentration camps." The crowd responded with scattered boos.

"Hang on," he said. "This is the United

States of America. This is the greatest country in the world. There is a difference between a concentration camp as we know it... and what's going on. The people that are there, they can leave. Nobody is holding them against their will."

That remark turned a few heads. As one person asked, "How is a 3-month-old baby, or a 4-year-old, gonna leave a facility like that?"

Or, for that matter, how is a 5-year-old supposed to pay bond, even if he's eligible? How willing is anyone to stay in a detention center while their case winds its way through an impossibly backlogged immigration court?

"Fair enough," Hagedorn responded, before launching into a less specific answer about wanting an "orderly" system for immigrants to enter the country legally. (He wasn't immediately available for comment, so it's difficult to say what he meant.)



YOUTUBE

But the thrust of the issue is this: Immigration court is so saturated right now that detention centers and Border Patrol facilities are becoming increasingly overcrowded, often to the point that children stay there longer than what is even allowable by federal law, regardless of whether they're willing. Last week, Homeland Security's inspector general called the conditions "dangerous."

Some children have been sitting for days without access to showers, clean laundry, and working toilets. Two facilities weren't even supplying them with hot meals, forcing the kids to survive on bologna sandwiches.

Even worse, the feds are wildly overpaying private companies for these services. In exchange for Third World conditions, the cost per person runs \$750 a day, roughly twice as much as the finest hotels in downtown Minneapolis.

But these problems are a long way from Olmsted—and by the looks of it, a long way from Hagedorn.

"We have compassion for everyone," he said. But "first and foremost" for "the American people."

"We defend this country and we protect the American people. That's the first thing that we do." —HANNAH JONES



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# wonton lust

a case for recognizing the cream cheese wonton  
as minnesota's true hometown foodstuff

**C**ream cheese wontons are proudly inauthentic, born of Chinese wonton skins and wrapping techniques and middle-American fried cheese lust. Sister to the crab rangoon, cousin of jalapeño poppers and cheesecake bites, cream cheese wontons—aka fried wontons, aka cream cheese puffs—are well-established in the kitsch food family.

As long as you're in Minnesota, anyway. Folks elsewhere in the U.S. have no clue what they are.

Nearly everywhere else in the country, you'll find their closest relative—the crab rangoon—something that esteemed San Francisco-based cookbook writer Andrea Nguyen recently noted when she visited the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

“Andrea came in and asked me why I have the wontons with cheese on the menu, and I told her it's just a Chinese-American classic—a guilty pleasure, secret trashy delight that I love to eat,” Hai Hai chef Christina Nyguen explains. “Did you know it is not a thing around the country?” she told me. I had no idea! I never realized that I hadn't seen them outside the Midwest.”

Slap an unidentified deep-fried wonton in front of a person, and within the first few bites you'll be able to tell where they're from. A Minnesotan confronted with a crab rangoon will gasp, “Ugh, this has crab in it.”

Those from the coasts, presented with a cream cheese wonton, will feel slighted: “This is just cheese? What the hell?” Even elsewhere in the Midwest—Chicago, Indianapolis, Detroit—the rangoon is the go-to.

BY LAUREN HAUN





dog. They can be paired with just about anything, or enjoyed solo in all of their beige glory.

**W**hile crab rangoons are thought to have originated at Trader Vic's in San Francisco, it's long been rumored that cream cheese wontons were actually invented here in Minnesota by none other than Leeann Chin.

The first cream cheese wonton reference we could find was in a 1985 edition of the Star Tribune, in a coupon for two free wontons with a takeout order from a now-defunct mom-and-pop place. Wontons seem to have gained popularity in buffets before making the leap to takeout menus and finally to fast food. (Leeann Chin's corporate reps confirmed that they are the creators of the cream cheese wonton under the name "cream cheese puffs" but refused to provide further details.)

They've since become a staple of takeout menus and buffet steam trays, found in all manner of Chinese, Vietnamese, and Thai restaurants—from places that specialize in squeaky styrofoam-box takeout to strip-mall all-you-can-eat joints. At restaurants that focus on takeout and lunch deals, cream cheese wontons have traditionally been the freebie, a thing-on-the-side or fried tidbit that's always worth the upcharge.

In the early Aughts, the cranberry wontons at Azia were a local hit, named one of the Twin Cities' all-time best dishes in 2010 by this very publication. Cream cheese wontons have maintained their popularity; a Leeann Chin employee recently told us he makes more than 700 a day for just one of the chain restaurant's locations.

They've also started appearing on menus crafted by chefs who became devotees in their youth. At the elegant new Lat14 in Golden Valley, a cream cheese wonton is provided with each lunch plate, a nod to their placement as an extra in Chinese-American lunch specials.

"It's the one comforting thing on the plate," chef Ann Ahmed explains. "It instantly feels comfortable. We're in the Midwest, people love cheese... there is at least one thing they'll like."

Most cream cheese wontons are crafted by hand, and each bears the individual stamp of the restaurant, folded and tucked into unique shapes and pouches. For some, triangle folds are creased into perfect crisp isosceles, a neat appearance that lets the filling hit every bite. The four fold or "beggar's purse" sees the chef plopping cream cheese in the middle before pushing up all four corners tight, creating a wonton that easily pulls



ALMA GUZMAN

Crab rangoons occasionally appear on local menus, but even when they do, they aren't the main attraction. And if wontons include anything besides the classic cheese, it's noted to prevent grumpy customers.

Could a case be made, then, for cream cheese wontons as the quintessential Minnesota food?

Consider this: Hot dish shouldn't count because you mainly make it at home, and Minnesotans don't invite strangers over. Besides, a truly iconic hometown dish should be something that can be bought in company and scarfed on the street or in a car/bus/park—not a platter of walleye. Atlanta has lemon pepper

wings; Philly has the cheesesteak; NYC has its floppy pizza slices.

There's the Juicy Lucy, of course, but you'll find wontons on a whole lot more menus throughout Minnesota. They have the incredible culinary flexibility of fried chicken wings, the portability of L.A. street tacos, the ubiquity of a Chicago



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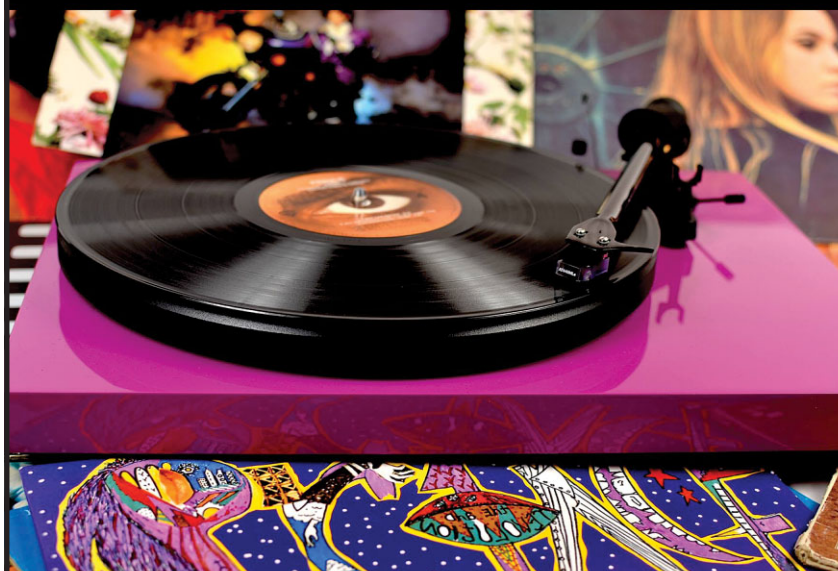
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apart with a crunchy handle and a glob of filling on the end—a dip-n-chip all in one. Wontons with envelope folds can be whipped up by employees quickly and simply, creating the style of pocket popularized by Leeann Chin.

“When I was a kid, my mom would make them every once in a while, when we were entertaining,” chef Christina Nguyen says. Hai Hai’s contribution to the cream cheese wonton canon does

ative as Minnesota’s culinary corners. Camdi, a Vietnamese restaurant on the U of M campus, even has a vegan cream cheese wonton that mirrors the richness and softness of cream cheese with a finely spiced filling. Owners Camdi and Kiet Phan are tight-lipped when questioned about their homemade filling, but proud that vegan customers ask where they can buy the “cheese” in stores. (Sorry, plant-based wonton fans: You can’t).

**“I wish I could show people how much work goes into something so simple.”**

○.....○

contain chicken liver pâté, but visually they’re a big wink to the classic iteration: the triangle shape with a bright-orange dipping sauce (though theirs is a tart passion fruit mix instead of thick orange syrup). “It’s a Midwestern classic that I grew up with.”

Chef Jessi Peine of Peeps Hot Box food truck grew up working in a Chinese restaurant, making cream cheese wontons every shift. “When I was creating the menu, I wanted something that massive amounts of people would know and have appeal,” she says. “It’s a naughty junk-food item. Since the food truck is seasonal, people will come by and tell me they waited all winter for the wontons. They kept telling me they were the best wontons ever, so we finally just wrote it on the truck.”

Once you start thinking about cream cheese wontons, you’ll see them everywhere. With a never-ending variety of flavors, they’re as multifaceted and cre-

What may be the pinnacle of wontons can be found at Rainbow Chinese Restaurant and Bar, helmed by chef Tammy Wong, who stresses the amount of care and labor that goes into the seemingly simple dish. “We still wrap each wonton by hand,” she explains. “It is really hard to find someone who is able to wrap them right. Not everyone can.... We had someone, and once they left they were very difficult to replace.”

Wong notes that the dough is very delicate, requiring skilled hands and a chunk of prep time daily. Their preparation needs to be consistent: not too doughy, not too wet, with a good ratio of cheese. (“I wish I could show people how much work goes into something so simple.”) Her care extends to the dipping sauce, which is made from scratch with a base of the vegetables and fruits that are in season: springtime is for carrots, squash and pumpkin follow in autumn, and early summer welcomes a rhubarb

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FEATURED ARTISTS:

MAX 315  
THERD  
EMORK  
BIAFRA  
GROE  
YUYA  
WUNDR

FLORA  
ERODE  
LEWPS  
BLACK DAZE  
DAREN HIL  
KNEW-ONE86  
KIYOTE

STALK  
SHEVA  
PETS  
CYFI  
RYOE  
CAVES  
EACH2

RAL86  
MUCH  
KSRA  
RIVER  
QZAR  
HOPE4

UNITED CRUSHERS  
TAYLOR BERMAN  
TRYST TRIGGER  
THEY DRIFT  
WES WINSHIP

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sauce, spiked with tangerine peels and garlic, inspired by watching the farmers near her food stall at the Minneapolis Farmers Market.

All this effort pays off in Rainbow producing one of the most refined cream cheese wontons in the Twin Cities—perfectly folded with a thick, uniform filling. Somehow, though most fried things lose their charm once the steam heat dissipates, these wontons remain crunchy. It's not accidental; it's Wong's 15 years of experience on display.

**F**or those who would scoff at wontons' simplicity, local food writer and prolific Instagram snack documentarian JD Hovland reminds us that there's very little difference between a cream cheese wonton and brie en croute, a classic upscale French dish of a wedge of soft brie wrapped in puff pastry and baked until golden brown. The real star wontons are those that have been fried to perfection.

When the first bite of a wonton hits, the tongue is overwhelmed by the tastes, both richly fatty and somehow bland—the twin arch flavors of Midwestern food. Quality cream cheese wontons have flavor to their filling, but one that isn't aggressive, just an enhancement to the richness.

"I really respect a wonton that retains a crunch after it's refrigerated, and the center stiffens like a cheesecake," Hovland says. On Instagram, he even tags each type of cream cheese wonton with its own sticker identifying the type of dumpling fold.

So what do we need to do to prove that these are Midwestern, if not Minnesotan to their very core? They're basically cheese curds with a crunchy shell, and various packed versions can be found in the frozen aisles of Target, Lunds, Cub—all the hometown grocery chains—so people can get their guilty food fix via at-home toaster ovens.

How about their appearance in the culinary juggernaut that is the State Fair? The 2017 fair featured Giggle's Campfire Grill's duck bacon wontons, while 2018 had wonton-esque sweet Greek cheese puffs from Dino's Gyros (going continental with the flavors). We need something beige and lovable, and the cream cheese wonton is precisely that wonder.

Even if finding a single definitive moment in which the cream cheese wonton was birthed in our great state's borders proves elusive, maybe it doesn't matter so much. It doesn't matter where or when you were born, but where and by whom you are loved. And Minnesota's heart undeniably beats with molten cheese, be it Juicy Lucy or cream cheese wonton. **CP**



ARTISTS LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

**THE BLIND SHAKE • CHEVY METAL  
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**SUNDAY JULY 22**

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**3PM THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)**  
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**T**his coming Sunday, July 14, a budget-friendly \$25 gets you unlimited samples of beverages from your favorite local breweries, distilleries, wineries, and cideries at Lake Monster Brewing. Tempting as it may be to fill up on booze, you might want to save some room for solids, too. Food trucks are also offering brand-new creations, while picture-perfect baked goods will be available from local purveyors, and more. It just might be the best \$25 you spend this year.

Oh yeah, and everything—from the beer to the cookies and cocktails—is completely vegan.

We sat down with Aubry Walch, Erin Mueller, and Laura vanZandt from event co-organizer The Herbivorous Butcher to get the details on the first annual Vegan Invasion Food Festival and Drink Sampler. (Reverie Mobile Kitchen is the event's other co-organizer.)

Beside the not-so-subtle name, how is Vegan Invasion different from other Twin Cities vegan events, such as the beloved and increasingly popular Veg Fest?

"Veg Fest has lots of advocacy organizations," explains vanZandt. "We decided to focus on food and drink, and retail. [Vegan Invasion] is a big party to celebrate veganism, and really focus on the food and drink vendors."

The roster of drink vendors is impressive: over a dozen breweries, plus a handful of distilleries, cideries, and wineries. Bittercube will be mixing cocktails in conjunction with Lawless Distilling, and Lake Monster Brewing will be sampling one of their vegan sours. On the non-alcoholic side, expect Bittercube mocktails, kombucha, and craft soda.

"We want to show people there are a lot of good vegan drinks, and this is a fun way to showcase them," says Mueller. "It's a fun introduction for people who aren't super familiar with plant-based food."

Speaking of the food, over a dozen vendors will be on hand, with everything from comfort food to cotton candy. Many of the featured food vendors are new to the local vegan scene—for example, These Wingsz? is a Chicago-based company that makes plant-based wings. Another newcomer is Keiko's Kitchen, a local pop-up that focuses on plant-based alkaline comfort foods.

In addition to new faces, some familiar vendors will be offering a new spin on their fare. Prairie Vegan Pies and Vegan East will try their hand at savory food items

## BRACE YOURSELF

for Minnesota's first annual Vegan Invasion



COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

in addition to their usual sweet treats. "It will be interesting to see what savory items normally dessert-oriented vendors come up with," says Walch.

Mueller promises that the Herbivorous Butcher Food Truck and Reverie Mobile Kitchen "are going to come up with some crazy stuff." No details yet, but we're betting it will be delicious.

Vegan Invasion will be rounded out with retail vendors selling everything from vegan baking mixes to plant-based apparel and soap. DJ Jake Rudh will be on hand spinning records throughout the event.

General admission tickets to Vegan Invasion are \$25 advance, \$30 day-of and include a souvenir glass that get you unlimited 2-ounce samples from drink vendors. VIP tickets cost \$45 and are valid for admission an hour early. Are you the designated driver or under 21 years of age? Get a discounted ticket for just \$20 that includes a souvenir glass and unlimited non-alcoholic drink samples. *Vegan Invasion at Lake Monster Brewing Company, 550 Vandalia St. #160, St. Paul. Sunday, July 14, noon to 5 p.m. (noon to 1 p.m. VIP only)*

—STACY BROOKS

## PEOPLE MAGAZINE HELPS MINNESOTA BECOME FAMOUS FOR ITS... CANNED BEANS

**First off:** Did you know that People Magazine dishes out food awards as of this year? Yup, they sure do.

In an issue slated for a July 15 release date, the nation's premiere checkout aisle fodder will tell us what's tasty. According to People, "Grocery shelves are packed with products promising great taste, easy preparation and healthy benefits." To sort the wheat from the chaff, People's editors "ate, drank and cooked more than 1,200 different items to find the most delicious new supermarket foods."

As if that isn't delightful enough, local brand S&W Beans took home top honors in the publication's first annual awards... for canned beans. Conquering the hearts and stomachs of consumers and gossip columnists alike, the Minnesota-based company received recognition for its Indian Style Garbanzos, beating out pretenders to the bean throne thanks to their delicious curry flavor and "ready-to-eat convenience."

The award-winning canned beans in question debuted in 2018 as part of S&W's line of all non-GMO, gluten-free, vegetarian side dishes designed to help busy people enjoy healthy, flavorful food without sweating away over a stove. In fact, heating these award-winning beans is somewhat optional; a staffer for People went so far as to say, "I could've eaten this out of the can by itself!" thereby painting one of the more stunning mental pictures I've imagined in a while.

Several other brands owned by Minnesota-based companies also received nods, which means the Bold North is finally gaining recognition for something other than SPAM. Beyond being the home of the world's finest canned beans, we can now add to our bragging rights Best Biscuit (Pillsbury Grands! Sweet Hawaiian Biscuits), Best Nut Butter (Justin's Maple Cashew Butter), Best Ice Cream (Talenti Gelato Layers: Salted Caramel Truffle), Best Cereal (Blueberry Cheerios), and Best Turkey Burger (Applegate Organics' Great Organic Blend Burger).

Snag the issue of People on newsstands mid-July, then celebrate Minnesota's unexpected victories with a delicious, healthy... bean snack, possibly straight from the can, in your parked car, outside your local grocer.

It's what People's people would do.

—SARAH BRUMBLE



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## FEATURED SHOWS



**IRATION**  
WITH PEPPER, FORTUNATE YOUTH, KATASTRO  
FIRST AVENUE

**JULY 13**



**PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON**  
FITZGERALD THEATER

**NOV 15**

## FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



**EMO NIGHT XXL**  
NOCTURNA LEE MISSION  
AND FLIP PHONE PRESENT

**JULY 12**



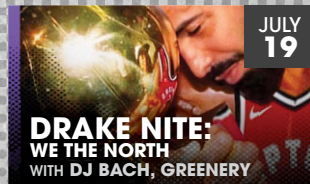
**SNAIL MAIL**  
WITH SASAMI

**JULY 15**



**PARQUET COURTS**  
WITH CATE LE BON

**JULY 18**



**DRAKE NITE:  
WE THE NORTH**  
WITH DJ BACH, GREENERY

**JULY 19**



**NIGHT MOVES**  
WITH LADY LARK, SAM CASSIDY

**JULY 20**



**HOME FREE  
ALBUM RELEASE SHOW**  
WITH JEFFREY EAST

**JULY 22**



**JAWBOX**  
WITH JUSTIN COURTNEY PIERRE

**JULY 26**



**90s  
ALL THAT 90s PARTY**  
WITH DJ DAVE PAUL, DJ MARCO

**JULY 27**



**FLIP PHONE XXL:  
SHORT SHORTS**  
STARRING SCARLET ENVY

**AUG 02**



**IDLES**  
WITH A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS

**AUG 03**

## PALACE THEATRE



**THE STRUTS**  
WITH THE GLORIOUS SONS,  
JJ WILDE

**JULY 13**



**LAST PODCAST  
ON THE LEFT**

**AUG 08**



**PHANTOGRAM**  
WITH BOB MOSES

**AUG 25**



**TYCHO**  
WITH POOLSIDE

**SEPT 13**



**BRITTANY  
HOWARD  
OF ALABAMA SHAKES**

**SEPT 19**

## PALACE THEATRE (CONT.)



**BLACKBERRY  
SMOKE**  
WITH THE RECORD COMPANY

**SEPT 26**



**ANDREW BIRD**  
WITH MADISON CUNNINGHAM

**SEPT 27**

## FITZGERALD THEATER



FIRST AVENUE AND ROSE PRESENT  
**AN EVENING WITH  
CHRIS ISAAK**

**AUG 11**



**COMEDY BANG!  
BANG! LIVE!**  
STARRING SCOTT AUKERMAN  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
9/6 SHOW SOLD OUT!


**SEPT 07**



**CRIMINAL  
PODCAST -  
LIVE SHOW**


**SEPT 22**

## FINE LINE



**REBIRTH BRASS BAND**  
W/ NEW SOUND UNDERGROUND

**JULY 11**



**SOUTHERN CULTURE  
ON THE SKIDS**  
W/ BECKY KAPPELL AND THE FAT 6

**JULY 12**



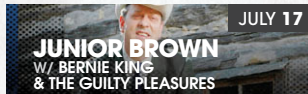
**THEE PHANTOM & THE  
ILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
W/ iLLism, DJ KING OTTO

**JULY 13**



**CRACKER AND  
CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN**

**JULY 14**



**JUNIOR BROWN**  
W/ BERNIE KING  
& THE GUILTY PLEASURES

**JULY 17**



**TORCHE**  
W/ THE WOLF COUNCIL,  
CRASH CUDDLE


**JULY 25**

## 7TH ST ENTRY



**COMBO CHIMBITA**  
W/ ALMA ANDINA

**JULY 10**



**GOLDEN VESSEL**  
W/ INSTUPENDO, AARON RICE

**JULY 14**



**HUGH MASTERSON  
AND THE RAD TRADS**  
W/ MICHAEL GAY OF ALMIGHTY AMERICAN

**JULY 11**



**WHALE IN THE THAMES,  
JOHNNY MONTREUIL  
AND STRANGER ANGEL**

**JULY 15**

## TURF CLUB



**RED WANTING BLUE**  
W/ RADDA RADDA

**JULY 10**



**THIS IS THE KIT**  
W/ NELSON DEVEREAUX  
AND THE STYLE BAND

**JULY 11**



**ELECTRIC SIX**  
W/ KYLE SHUTT

**JULY 12**



**ABBY JEANNE**  
W/ FAITH BOBLETT

**JULY 12**



**THE JAUNTEE**  
W/ CIRCLE OF HEAT

**JULY 18**



**FALSE  
PORTENT RELEASE SHOW**  
W/ LUNGS, TVÆR, GNAWED

**JULY 13**



**WE WERE  
PROMISED JETPACKS**  
W/ CATHOLIC ACTION

**JULY 14**



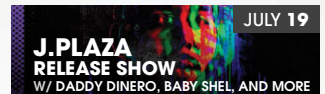
**SOPHISTAFUNK**  
W/ MY SON THE HURRICANE,  
D MILLS AND THE THRILLS

**JULY 16**



**HARVEST**  
W/ BLUE OX, WANDERER,  
OPTIMAL CRIME

**JULY 13**



**J.PLAZA  
RELEASE SHOW**  
W/ DADDY DINERO, BABY SHEL, AND MORE

**JULY 19**

## AROUND TOWN



**HELENA DELAND**  
W/ THE NUNNERY  
icehouse MPLS

**JULY 13**



GO SHOW #17:  
**BONE THUGS N HARMONY**  
W/ RED POETS SOCIETY  
CABOOZE OUTDOOR PLAZA

**JULY 19**




**LORD HURON**  
W/ BULLY  
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

**JULY 27**



**NEW YEARS DAY**  
W/ PLAGUE OF STARS, TIME KEEPER  
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

**JULY 29**



**YAMANEIKA  
SAUNDERS**  
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

**AUG 02**



# A LIST

**SATURDAY** Red Hot Art returns p. 19

**SUNDAY** Twin Cities World Refugee Day p. 21

**MONDAY** Still Kickin turns 4 p. 21

WEDNESDAY 7.10

## COMEDY

### KRISTEN TOOMEY

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Kristen Toomey is a standup comic from Chicago who talks onstage about everything from relationships to the way fellow women act in public restrooms. "I'm so tired of the game we're playing in there of just pretending we're not making any noise," she tells an audience. "You try not to make any noise at all. We're out in the streets yelling for equality, but in there? No, no, no." Married for 14 years, she recently divorced. "I got a bad case of the kids out of the deal," she states. "I can't shake 'em. Literally, you can't shake them. That's the first thing they tell you. When I had the first one, the nurse would come into the room in the middle of the night and say, 'Don't shake the baby!' Why are you planting seeds?" The kids are older now. "So, they made it," she adds. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

## SHITSHOW

### SHOWGIRLS

MACKENZIE PUB

This Wednesday, Trash Film Debauchery brings us one of the least sexy movies about sexiness ever made. A modern masterpiece, *Showgirls* follows the story of Nomi (Elizabeth Berkley), a stripper who seeks fame and glory on the Las Vegas club circuit. She soon makes a frenemy of top dancer Cristal (Gina Gershon) after bonding a bit over the fact that they have both tried dog food (seriously). Soon, Nomi is dating Cristal's boyfriend, Zack (Kyle MacLachlan), coming together in one of the most frantic and weird pool (sex?) scenes ever filmed. This is a classy pic, filled with histrionic acting, nonsensical nudity, and mispronunciations of "Versace." You might not find it sexy, but it's definitely entertaining. 8:30 p.m.

Daniel Buettner is ready to move on from portrait art in this farewell show at Rosalux.



DANIEL BUETTNER

Free. 918 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-333-7268. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THURSDAY 7.11

## COMEDY

### PATTON OSWALT

HISTORIC STATE THEATRE

In recent a special, Patton Oswalt described a casino gig he once took: "It was the most money I'd ever been offered to do anything in my life or

career," he told the audience. "They weren't offering me a profane amount of money or an obscene amount of money. They were offering me a sacrilegious amount of money. Jesus should have come down and kicked me in the face." The casino management couldn't have been nicer, and asked Oswalt to do a VIP meet-and-greet before the show, which he agreed to. There, he was introduced to "40 of the drunkest people I've ever seen—and I was in a fraternity and I've

been to a Russian wedding." The main audience was even more inebriated, as between the opening comic and Oswalt the casino had offered 30 minutes of cheap shots. Casino management insisted he do only 30 minutes. When Oswalt came out, the audience began to shout out everything he's ever been in. That's quite an extensive list. "I had my career screamed at me, agreed with it, got a standing ovation, walked off stage, and I said to myself, 'I just paid for one year of my daughter's college, I did not tell a single joke, and I've never made an audience happier.'" 8 p.m. \$39.50-\$65. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —P.F. WILSON

FRIDAY 7.12

## OPERA

### MILL CITY SUMMER OPERA

MILL CITY MUSEUM

It's last call for this opera among the ruins, as Mill City Summer Opera's contract with the Minnesota Historical Society has not been renewed. The ruins will continue, however, to be one of the most dramatic stages for any sort of event, including theatrical presentations showcasing the human voice. Mozart's *Così fan tutte* has been selected, a work considered risqué and vulgar in earlier centuries, but now frequently performed despite its narrative of sisters loyal to their husbands but cruelly tricked by the selfsame to the brink of infidelity. You can also see opera at a bar this summer, as Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* will be performed by the group at Icehouse on July 15 and 17. For tickets, go to [www.millcitysummeropera.org](http://www.millcitysummeropera.org). 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sunday, and Tuesday, plus July 17-18, 20, 22, and 24. \$50-\$125; \$200-\$250. 704 S. Second St., Minneapolis; 612-341-7555. **Through July 24** —CAMILLE LEFEBVRE

## DANCE

### JEALOUSY

HAIR + NAILS

It was only a matter time. Of course Hair + Nails Contemporary Art Gallery, run by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 ►



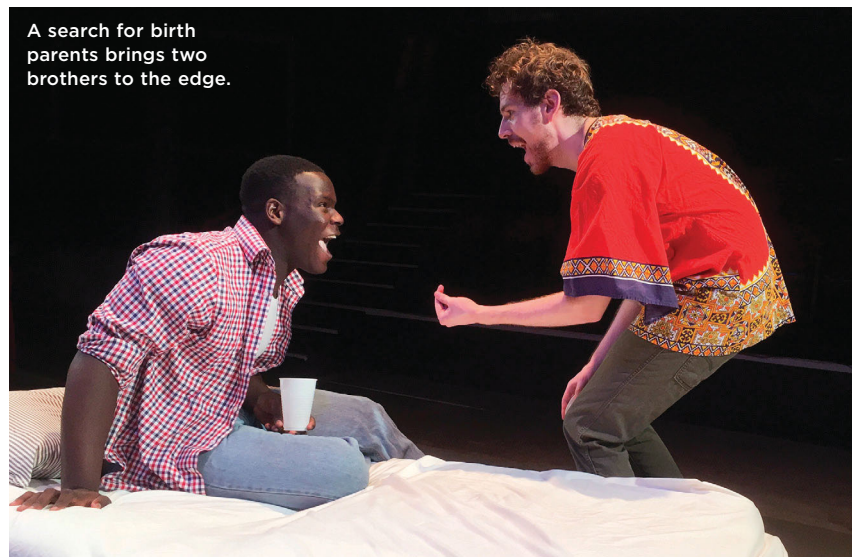
# HAVE MORE FUN



FULTON HARD SELTZER MIXED 12 PACK OUT NOW!

#HAVEMOREFUN





SARAH BAUER

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

movement improvisation goddess Kristin Van Loon and artist Ryan Fontaine, would eventually incorporate an installation featuring Van Loon and her dance other half, Arwen Wilder. The piece is titled *Jealousy*, and it integrates dance, sculpture, light, and an ephemeral sort of materiality in a performance made for the gallery's storefront and sculpture garden. Lighting designer extraordinaire Heidi Eckwall is also on board. In this confluence of multiple artistic influences, abstraction leads to revelation. 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday; 6 p.m. Saturday. \$12; no one turned away for lack of funds. 2222 1/2 E. 35th St., Minneapolis; 612-229-0585.

**Through Sunday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

#### THEATER

### SAMUEL J. & K.

GREMLIN THEATRE

For children adopted by families in foreign lands, the prospect of tracing a remote cultural heritage can prove a complicated venture with unforeseen consequences. Such is the situation encountered by the titular characters in playwright Mat Smart's poignant piece, *Samuel J. & K.* Two brothers are brought together when three-year-old Samuel K. is adopted from his Cameroon homeland into Samuel J.'s white American family. When Samuel K. graduates from college, the matter of ancestry manifests in the form of an unwanted gift from his older brother: two roundtrip plane tickets to Cameroon. Smart's provocative script reveals the latent personal and social fissures in their relationship, fractures deep enough to jeopardize the foundations of their familial connection. Receiving its local premiere at Gremlin Theatre, this Brian

Balcom-directed staging features Paul LaNave and Wariboko Semenitari as the two brothers who test the strained resiliency of a frayed lifelong bond. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, plus Monday, July 22; 3 p.m. Sundays. \$28; under 30 pay half your age. 550 Vandalia St., St. Paul; 1-888-71-TICKETS. **Through August 4 —BRAD RICHASON**

#### SATURDAY 7.13

#### BARHOPPING/PARTY

### 5 YEARS OF AWESÖME

BAUHAUS BREW LABS

It's been five years since northeast brewery Bauhaus Brew Labs tapped its first kegs. It's also been five years since "Haus" band Viva Knieval, featuring several brewery members, first rocked the start-up's stage. Now they bring you 5 Years of Awesöme, a party with lots of beer and food trucks, live jams, and inflatable games (including human-sized versions of foosball and Hungry Hungry Hippos). The party begins midday with jams spun by DJ Stepmom, followed by the gypsy jazz of the Gentlemen's Anti-Temperance League, and the groove of Purple Funk Metropolis, with the rollicking Viva Knieval closing out the night. Noon to 11:45 p.m. Free. 1315 Tyler St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-276-6911. —LOREN GREEN

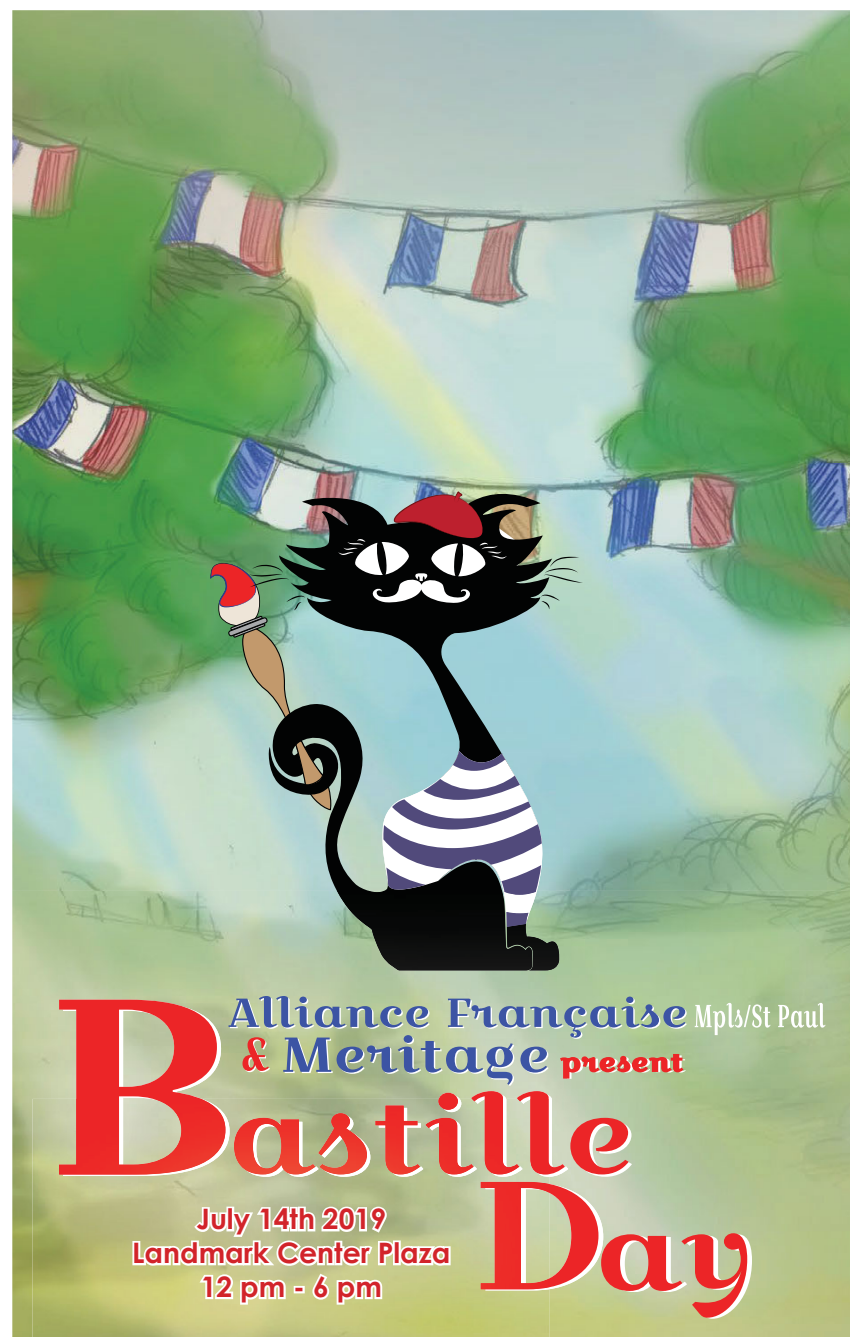
#### FESTIVAL

### NORTHEAST FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

ABLE SEEDHOUSE + BREWERY

This Saturday, 14 different food trucks will be setting up shop in the Able Seedhouse parking lot to serve eats and drinks for a good cause. The lineup includes Animales Barbeque Co.,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 ►







presents

# BLOCKTOBERFEST 2

DO YOUR BEST TO HELP US GET RID OF SOME

## AMAZING BEER

September 14, 11:00 a.m - 7:00 p.m.

A day of free music with beer from neighboring craft breweries

MUSIC BY

## TAPES 'N TAPES

HEIRUSPECS - NEW PRIMITIVES - ALEX ROSSI

dualcitizenbrewing.com 725 Raymond Ave. St. Paul, MN 55114



### A-LIST

Kids contribute to a project at Red Hot Art.



IMAGE COURTESY EVENT ORGANIZERS

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

Anchor Fish & Chips, the Herbivorous Butcher, and Sasquatch Sandwiches. Snack on sushi, ice cream, and pizza. A \$5 wristband will get you access to Able's favorite brews, and all proceeds from sales will benefit Meals on Wheels, which delivers food to elderly and disabled folks. The music lineup will include country tunes from the Federales, punk jams from Scrunchies, and rock from Arcwelder. 3 to 10 p.m. Free. 1121 Quincy St. NE, Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### ART/FESTIVAL

#### RED HOT ART FESTIVAL 2019

STEVENS SQUARE PARK

You have a few more weeks until the two biggest summertime arts fests take over Loring Park and Uptown. In the meantime, Red Hot Art will be repping Minnesota makers, businesses, and creatives in Stevens Square Park. Here you'll find the kind of amazing work you typically don't see at massive art events. Check out Rock Johnson Ceramics, whose sexually explicit tumblers can be used to consume coffee or wine. Val's Brew Treats recycles spent grain into yummy biscuits for your dog, while Midwest American Shaman will be on hand with CBD products for humans. Live music is planned throughout both days, and includes City Pages' Picked to Click winners the Gully Boys (Saturday) and Mayda (Sunday). Food trucks will be stopping by, and hands-on art activities will entertain the little ones. Find more info at [www.facebook.com/redhotartfest](http://www.facebook.com/redhotartfest). 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free. 1801 Stevens Ave., Minneapolis. **Through Sunday** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### ART/GALLERY

#### THE LAST PORTRAIT SHOW

ROSALUX GALLERY

Daniel Buettner says he's had enough. After years of creating marvelous paintings in which animal-human hybrids ignite the imagination with wit and wickedness and animals share a canvas with mundane objects in hilarious sendups of cultural mores (or venture into the uncanny), Buettner is ready to move on. So this is your last chance to laugh out loud while marveling at his technique. Meanwhile, Robert Roscoe, in his photo exhibition "Random Places," puts the quotidian at the fore. The architectural details, rich materiality, and historic resonance of buildings are the subjects of his work, which comment on time and transformation. There will be an artists' reception from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 13. Free. 1400 Van Buren St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-747-3942.

**Through July 28** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

### ART/GALLERY

#### WORK FROM THE 2019 WOMEN'S ART INSTITUTE

CATHERINE G. MURPHY GALLERY

This summer, 16 contemporary women artists participated in the Women's Art Institute Summer Studio Intensive, a rigorous program of deep reflection and artistic production that also generated insights into the philosophical, aesthetic, and historic challenges of art-making today. This exhibition showcases bodies of work the participants completed during the four weeks, including efforts from Theresa Beaulieu, Sandy Gillespie, Katherine Glass, Betsey Hodson, Fawzia Khan, Gwen Partin, Nina Martine Robinson, and Kimberlee

PLAZA SHOW

<b>JUL 12</b> Dirty Sexy Riot Heavy Metal Burlesque	<b>JUL 15</b> Reel Big Fish & Aquabats!	<b>JUL 19</b> Bone Thugs -N-Harmony
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**SUNDAY****FESTIVAL****BASTILLE DAY 2019**LANDMARK PLAZA/  
BARBETTE

Each of Twin Cities is celebrating French culture and history this weekend for Bastille Day. In St. Paul, Alliance Francais will be hosting a party at Landmark Plaza (379 St. Peter St.), where you'll find trivia sessions, food and wine, and live tunes and performances from Douala Soul Collective, Johnny Montreuil, DJ Salif Keita, Café Accordion Orchestra, Fatawu Sayibu, and the Whale in the Thames. It's all free from noon to 6 p.m. Over in Minneapolis,

Barbette in Uptown (1600 W. Lake St.) will be hosting their annual block party from 2 to 9 p.m. Also free, this event includes a local artists' market and food vendors (Fries! Champagne! Beer!), plus live entertainment from host MC Foxy Tann, DJ Sean McPherson, Tacky Annie, Nadine DuBois & Les Folies Risque, Sweet J.A.P., Mark Mallman, Circus Juventas, and others. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



ERIC MELZER

Joy Roth. In a variety of media, the artists exude renewed confidence while pondering the value and possibility of artistic expression. There will be a public reception on Saturday, July 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Catherine University, St. Paul. **Through July 27 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

**SUNDAY 7.14****MOVIES****STAR WARS EPISODES 4-6**

PARKWAY THEATER

It's been a good number of years since the OG *Star Wars* films were on the big screen in Minnesota, but this month the Parkway Theater is making it happen. The whole gang's here, including binge-drinking puppets, Boba Fett, that weird sand stomach thing, those damn Ewoks, and a non-CGI Yoda. This Sunday, *Star Wars: A New Hope* will screen four times during the day, with *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* screening in the following weeks. Showtimes are at noon, 3, 6, and 9 p.m. \$9/\$11 at the door. 4814 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis. **Sundays through July 28 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

**FESTIVAL****TWIN CITIES WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

LORING PARK

Refugees should be celebrated, protected, and respected. Now that our

country is tanking any resemblance of humanity, events like World Refugee Day are more important than ever. At this event, folks will be able to take in dance, music, and spoken word from 15 different performers and cultural groups. A resource fair will introduce guests to 50 organizations working to aid local refugees. Food and an artists' mart will provide a feast for the eyes and the stomach. Learn more about the event and what you can do for human rights at [tcworldrefugeeday.org](http://tcworldrefugeeday.org). 2 to 7 p.m. Free. 1382 Willow St., Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

**MONDAY 7.15****BARHOPPING/PARTY****STILL KICKIN TURNS 4**

BAUHAUS BREW LABS

Each month, Still Kickin raises funds to help families and patients with medical bills. This amazing—and very necessary—organization does so through selling merch, hosting benefits, and from online pledges. This Monday, they'll be celebrating four years of doing good work with a party at Bauhaus. There will be beer, including the release of Still Kickin Summer Pale Ale. Other fun will include live art, stuff for kids to do, and sweet treats. New merch and limited-edition collector's pins will also be for sale this evening. 5 to 9 p.m. Free. 1315 Tyler St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-276-6911. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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# NOWHERE MOVIE

In *Yesterday*, two boring people find love in a world where the Beatles never existed



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

BY KEITH HARRIS

**E**ver hate a movie for a totally different reason than you expected?

The premise of Danny Boyle's *Yesterday*—what if you were the only person in the world who remembered the Beatles' music?—sounded like a setup for disappointment. Would Richard Curtis' script ingeniously explore what sort of butterfly effect the Beatles' non-existence might have? Would it address the possibility that as great as Lennon-McCartney were as songwriters, their music might not feel quite as magical outside of their historical context? Nah on both counts, of course.

What I didn't expect, though, was to be distracted from my annoyance with the film's goofy high concept by how ineptly *Yesterday* would function as a romcom. Curtis is the guy responsible for *Love, Actually*, so you'd think he'd know how a movie like this is supposed to work. But the romantic plot lurches and staggers, tossing arbitrary roadblocks between the would-be lovers to keep them apart until the movie's ready for them to be together.

The happily-ever-after-ers in question are Jack Patil (Himesh Patel), a singer-songwriter of no special talent, and his friend, manager, and biggest fan Ellie Appleton (an unconvincingly frumped down Lily James)—it was so much easier to pretend pretty women weren't attractive back before glasses became sexy). Ellie's been schlepping gear from one coffeehouse gig to the next all these years because she's in love with Jack, but somehow that possibility has never occurred to him—a fact that seems more fantastical than the Beatles' music suddenly vanishing from public memory.

While Jack's biking home from a gig one night, the electricity fails worldwide for 12 seconds and a bus wallops him. After his recovery, he plays "Yesterday" for his pals, and he's stunned that they've never heard it. After a quick Google reveals that he's indeed in a Beatle-less world, Jack decides to pass off the Beatles' songs as his own (despite some misgivings), and eventually he's touring with Ed Sheeran.

As the stress of the deceit gnaws at Jack, the movie races into a minefield of unfortunate scenes in which he learns the importance of Being True to Himself and, of course, LOVE. Along the way there's a

**YESTERDAY**

directed by Danny Boyle  
area theaters, now showing

dollop of Beatley fan service (including the obligatory trip to Liverpool) as the songs become plot points and setups for punchlines. The movie's idea of big laugh is a character telling Ed Sheeran, "You look like Ed Sheeran" and Ed Sheeran responding, "I am Ed Sheeran."

Sheeran plays himself (doesn't he always?) and does so likably enough, which is more than can be said for most of the supporting cast. Joel Fry is a bumbling drunk/stoner of a comic sidekick who's given no decent jokes, and as Jack's greedy manager, Kate McKinnon isn't so much playing a role as doing an extended bit.

Ultimately, *Yesterday* seems to exist solely to remind us that the Beatles were great and falling in love is wonderful, two bits of conventional wisdom that seem to be doing just fine without help from Boyle and Curtis. Still, who knows? Maybe *Yesterday* will encourage Ed Sheeran to take some time off from music and pursue a movie career. Now that would be a happy ending. **GF**



# CRAZY BUT TRUE

Turtle Theater tells the tale of a powwow at a KKK meetup



MARETTA ZILIC

BY JAY GABLER

“There are a lot of turtles in Native American lore,” says Ernest Briggs, artistic director of Turtle Theater Collective. “As well as being very sacred creatures, they’re very wise creatures because they kind of watch over time and history.”

According to its mission statement, the Minnesota company “is committed to producing high-quality, contemporary work that explores Native experiences and subverts expectations about how and when Native artists can create theater.”

Indeed, there’s hardly a thing about their new production that won’t challenge expectations. From July 10-14 at Mixed Blood Theatre, Turtle Theater Collective is presenting the regional premiere of a play by Larissa FastHorse: *What Would Crazy Horse Do?*

“The play was inspired by an actual flier I saw in the State Museum of South Dakota for a big Ku Klux Klan gathering in 1926,” said FastHorse in an interview for the Lilly Awards’ website. “The entertainment for

the night was a Klan-sponsored powwow. My mind was blown.”

“This show talks about so many things, from a Native American perspective,” says Briggs. “From issues that we’re having in the United States with race, issues with rural communities, issues of suicide—so many different things.”

The first Turtle Theater show, in spring 2018, was the U.S. premiere of Daniel David Moses’ acclaimed Canadian play *Almighty Voice and His Wife*. The company followed it with a summer 2018 production of Thornton Wilder’s classic *Our Town*, staged at the Division of Indian Work in Minneapolis.

“We tried to cast the roles with Ojibwe actors playing the roles of the Gibbs family, and Lakota actors playing the roles of the Webb family,” says Briggs, who is White Earth Ojibwe. “Young people—and even elder people from my community—came up and said, ‘It was just nice to see ourselves represented onstage.’”

*What Would Crazy Horse Do?* is set on a South Dakota reservation in the very recent past. A pair of young adults discover a surprising connection, via their late grandfather, to people who want to revive the

WHAT WOULD CRAZY HORSE DO?

Mixed Blood Theatre  
1501 S. Fourth St., Minneapolis  
Through Sunday; brownpapertickets.com

KKK: Instead of “white supremacy,” they emphasize language about racial “purity” and “unity.”

Calling the play controversial “doesn’t begin to cover it,” wrote the Kansas City Star in a review of the 2017 world premiere. FastHorse, who resides in California but has Minnesota connections including an affiliation with the Playwrights’ Center, is one of the country’s most buzzworthy young writers; her *Thanksgiving Play*, a satire about liberal white people trying to retell the holiday’s origin story, landed on the 2017 Kilroys list of exceptional under-produced plays by women.

Briggs is acting in *Crazy Horse*, and previously participated in a staged reading of the script. “If we’re not careful, we can be led down a dark path,” says Briggs about the work’s message. “The play says a lot about what Native American people are going through and what’s happening, but it’s definitely a cautionary tale.” **CB**

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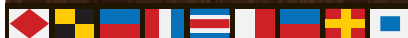
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BY KEITH HARRIS

With the year half gone, it's time to take stock of the best music I've heard over the past six months. And there's more where this came from: Check out an expanded list on [citypages.com](http://citypages.com).

### 1. Sir Babygirl, *Crush on Me*

Kelsie Hogue manages her unmanageable desires by colorfully exaggerating their scope, flinging herself into extremes of knowingly delirious indie-pop and treating every slight, sexual slip-up, and thwarted crush like the end of the world. Shouting, "You don't know me anymore! I changed my hair!" at an ex isn't just more fun than moping at home—it's healthier. I just hope that same manic, pastel aesthetic is equally therapeutic when brought to bear on whatever inspired "Haunted House," where Hogue's voice slides up and down the scale like a penny whistle while lyrics like "no one knows the difference from my laughter and my screams" suggest a desperate failure to exorcise a genuine trauma at its core.

### 2. Julia Jacklin, *Crushing*

This Australian singer-songwriter's acute autopsy of a fragmenting relationship cuts from present to past and back again, with the future manifesting itself through fretful anticipation as Jacklin faces a clump of unanswerables: Is he OK? What's he gonna do with that nude pic? Did he ever watch that stupid video I sent him? Really though, is he OK? Fragile but sinuous, Jacklin's sob stretches in tendrils of tuneful anxiety, while her guitar mimics unkempt emotion without getting rowdy or atonal. Her music sounds like what heartbreak physically feels like, before we find the words for it, though each song here gives up a phrase that wholly encapsulates a mood, a scenario, a life stage. She refuses to vilify the dude she couldn't trust without making him sympathetic and skirt despair without giving in to the myth of closure. Dunno if he'll be OK. But Jacklin sounds like she's gonna be just fine.

### 3. Adia Victoria, *Silences*

"First of all there is no God," this South Carolina blues revisionist declares plainly 30 seconds in, strings creeping beside her through the shadows, and you can hear the glint in her eye: She knows he's dead because she offed the sucker. Victoria and co-producer Aaron Dessner of the National populate the corners of these tracks with

# THE 10 BEST ALBUMS OF 2019 (SO FAR)

A 17-year-old goth-pop star, a Nigerian electronics whiz, a boundary-blurring St. Paul innovator, and more



ghosts and echoes, and the lyrics typically read more bleakly than Victoria's stealthily scrunched, preternaturally nonchalant voice allows them to be. Playful in her self-destructive defiance, she's a deicidal Billie Holiday fan who sounds like she'd sold her soul to Kurt Weill to pay off her bar tab. Who can relate?

### 4. Billie Eilish, *When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*

Death makes sad teens horny, a timeless truth Eilish is precocious enough to exploit for dark lulz where she might be expected to strike a supposedly gender-appropriate pose of somber, witchy melancholy. Her flashlight-under-the-chin shtick hardly trivializes the lives she's seen lost or deaths she's imagined for herself (that's not how jokes work), and even in her more sincere and subdued moments this breathy teen shows up the manipulative nihilizzm of the Soundcloud nothings whose beats her producer bro Finneas bites and bests while wending Eminem-y synth whines through his skull-emoji trap-pop.

### 5. Little Simz, *Grey Area*

For all her "Jay-Z on a bad day/Shakespeare on my worst days" boasts, this London MC doesn't barrel you over with her wordplay. Instead she draws you in with her mushed consonants and clipped flow, matched ideally here by Inflo's production, which relies on live musicianship rather than electronic piecework. Tough female rappers are everywhere these days, but though Simz is no pushover, she reveals a third dimension over the course of her album, promising candor then bristling when you assume too much intimacy, her defense mechanisms and survival techniques stunning you with their blunted but slow-acting venom.

### 6. Dawn, *New Breed*

In the past, the music of this Danity Kane alum turned Afrofuturist auteur sprawled architecturally. Here its components—a trap beat fading like an exorcised ghost, a Roy Ayers synth gliding in like a childhood memory—click together to fill up smaller spaces, shadowy yet luxuriant, her rhythmic logic unpredictable in ways that come to

feel inevitable. And whether she's feeling nostalgic ("the nine"), dirty ("sauce"), petty ("jealousy"), or righteous ("we, diamonds"), the lyrics come correct and direct. We all deserve the good sex and supportive community and basic respect Dawn demands. Only difference is, she's artist enough to make anyone who'd deny her any of them look like a dope.

### 7. Big Thief, *U.F.O.F.*

Arpeggios or circular riffs recur with the steady reassurance of a stick along a picket fence and melodies bend with the supple give of a green willow branch as this Brooklyn indie quartet—let's call them "acoustic-friendly" rather than "folkie"—claim their space in the natural world. Drawing upon childhood idyll, thrumming with collaborative verve, electrified with just the right amount of dissonance, just spooky enough around the edges, this is a game with elaborate, improvised rules, an exercise in spontaneity not anarchy. And it's all the context Adrianne Lenker needs for her whispered mantras like "we have the same power" and invocations of various female names to resonate far beyond their literal meaning.

### 8. Dua Saleh, *Nūr*

The deepest 20 minutes of Minnesota music I've heard this young year also include some of the most playful: On "Sugar Mama," Dua's voice bobs with double-dutch insouciance over a self-fashioned tick-tock beat as this Sudan-born and St. Paul-raised singer teases and eventually goes down on the girl next door, a white-savior wannabe who never had it so good. Once Psymun takes over production duties, the tracks thicken with reinforced steel cables of bass but retain that simple, effective rhythmic core. Dense not murky, moody not ominous, the sound is akin to Dua's cottony coddling of words, a stylish exercise in false modesty that shrugs "oh, this old phrase" while strewing as glitzy a string of syllables as "I'll spit on silk to find the silver in the slivers in your couch."

### 9. Hama, *Houmeissa*

This playful Nigerian electronic composer draws his brilliant synth patterns from melodies sung by West African herders and nomads, with some wedding tunes thrown in 'cause why not, and while they may get a little sillier stripped of their context through electronic reprocessing, that hardly cheapens its effect. In fact, it gives each tune a chance to prove how hardy it was to begin with, and in Hama's hands,





**THE CEDAR**  
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<p><b>Wednesday, July 10</b> The Cedar Presents <b>SARAH SHOOK &amp; THE DISARMERS</b> with <b>Sunny War</b> Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$15 ADV • \$18 DOS</p>	<p><b>Saturday, July 13</b> Minnesota Orchestra and The Cedar present <b>2019 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MUSIC</b> Noon - 10pm • All Ages • Free</p>
<p><b>Friday, July 12</b> Free Minds, Free People and Midwest Mixed Present <b>LET'S GET FREE!</b> ft. <b>Tall Paul, Izell Pyramid, and sunSETS (DJ Set)</b> Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$5 / \$10 / \$20 GA</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, July 17</b> Live Nation Presents <b>DANIEL SLOSS: X</b> with special guest Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • 16+ • \$40 GA</p>
<p><b>Saturday, July 13</b> The Cedar and KFAI Present <b>WALTER TROUT</b> with <b>Nick Schnebelen</b> Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$25 ADV • \$28 DOS</p>	<p><b>Thursday, July 18</b> The Cedar Presents <b>THE LOWEST PAIR</b> with <b>Sam Rae</b> Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$15 GA</p>

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<p>Thursday, July 11    7:30 pm <b>SAY ANYTHING (1989)</b> PRE-SCREENING MUSIC BY BEV</p>	<p>Thursday, July 18    7:30 pm <b>REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (1956)</b> 35MM PRE-SCREENING MUSIC BY KINDA FONDA WANDA</p>
<p>Friday, July 12    9:00 pm <b>THE JONES GANG W. TUMBLIN' DICE</b> TRIBUTE TO THE GRATEFUL DEAD!</p>	<p>Friday, July 19    8:00 pm <b>JOHNNY PEMBERTON // LIVE COMEDY</b> WITH ELLIE HINO &amp; ZACH COLTER</p>
<p>Saturday Matinee, July 13    1:00 pm <b>SPACE JAM (1996)</b></p>	<p>Saturday Matinee, July 20    1:00 pm <b>TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE (1986)</b> 35MM PRESENTATION</p>
<p>Saturday, July 13    8:00 pm <b>SOLD OUT // THE FLOP HOUSE</b> LIVE PODCAST</p>	<p>Sunday, July 21    12pm, 3pm, 6pm, &amp; 9pm <b>STAR WARS: EPISODE V THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK</b></p>
<p>Sunday, July 14    12pm, 3pm, 6pm, &amp; 9pm <b>STAR WARS: EPISODE IV A NEW HOPE</b></p>	<p>Thursday, July 25    7:30 pm <b>REPO MAN (1984)</b> 35MM PRESENTATION</p>

Find tickets & more show listings at [ParkwayTheater.com](http://ParkwayTheater.com)

## MUSIC

these melodies thrive. Everyone I've recommended this to has loved it. What makes you think you'll be any different?

### 10. Pedro the Lion, *Phoenix*

David Bazan's lyrics don't fully connect the boy he was to the man he is—that's a lifetime's work—but damn if this journey through his past doesn't accomplish something similar musically, wedding his searching solo inquiries to the skewed sonics/straightforward dynamics of the coulda-been alt/emo contenders he disbanded in 2005. If that sounds too schematic, trust me, there's nothing pat about a thoughtful post-Christian expiating his secular flaws through the judicious arrangement of riffs that, I swear to post-Christ, suggest (oh blessed contradiction) an introspective Pixies. **C+**

## CRITICS' PICKS

### ELECTRIC SIX

TURF CLUB, FRIDAY 7.12

The loudest, sweatiest, and most batshit of the early-'00s retro-rock bands, Electric Six have been refining their hybrid of glam, disco, metal, and other sensationalist modes for almost two decades. Last year's *Bride of the Devil* is the 14th album in rock's most extensive collection of songs about fire, nuclear war, vampires, and the importance of yelling "solo!" before a solo. With Kyle Shutt. 8 p.m. \$17/\$20. 1601 University Ave., St. Paul; 651-647-0486. —**LUCAS FAGEN**

### ABBY JEANNE

7TH ST. ENTRY, FRIDAY 7.12

Abby Jeanne crafts her songs to sound like the voice of retro soul incarnate emanating from an old bar jukebox, down to the hazy static coating the instruments and the vocal filters that sometimes blur her sharp, raspy singing. Her new *Music Box Dancer* is vehement and clattery, but also detailed, finding the right places to shade in the horns and backup sighs. With Faith Boblett. 18+. 8 p.m. \$12. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —**LUCAS FAGEN**

### SNAIL MAIL

FIRST AVENUE, MONDAY 7.15

Lindsey Jordan sings with deadpan melancholy, plays clean, discrete guitar riffs that bifurcate into frayed crisscrossing electric currents, and writes songs that are sad because they're funny. "Heat Wave" was last year's best song about lovelorn dreaming in the drowsy, muggy summer, while "Pristine" projects the comic misery of hearing abject longings sung aloud. With Sasami. 18+. 7 p.m. \$20. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —**LUCAS FAGEN**



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Angela Haggins




Sasha Solis



FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezсны

**♈ ARIES** (March 21-April 19): You're in the Land of Green Magic. That's potentially very good news, but you must also be cautious. Why? Because in the Land of Green Magic, the seeds of extraneous follies and the seeds of important necessities both grow extra fast. Unless you are a careful weeder, useless stuff will spring up and occupy too much space. So be firm in rooting out the blooms that won't do you any good. Be aggressive in nurturing only the very best and brightest.

**♉ TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Eight years ago, researchers in Kerala, India went to the Padmanabhaswamy Temple and climbed down into centuries-old vaults deep beneath the main floor. They found a disorganized mess of treasure in the form of gold and precious gems. There were hundreds of chairs made from gold, baskets full of gold coins from the ancient Roman Empire, and a four-foot-high solid statue of a god, among multitudinous other valuables. I like bringing these images to your attention, Taurus, because I have a theory that if you keep them in your awareness, you'll be more alert than usual to undiscovered riches in your own life and in your own psyche. I suspect you are closer than ever before to unearthing those riches.

**♊ GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Children need to learn certain aptitudes at certain times. If they don't, they may not be able to master those aptitudes later in life. For example, if infants don't get the experience of being protected and cared for by adults, it will be hard for them to develop that capacity as toddlers. This is a good metaphor for a developmental phase that you Geminis are going through. In my astrological opinion, 2019 and 2020 are critical years for you to become more skilled at the arts of togetherness and collaboration; to upgrade your abilities so as to get the most out of your intimate relationships. How are you doing with this work so far?

**♋ CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Vantablack is a material made of carbon nanotubes. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, it is the darkest stuff on the planet. No black is blacker than Vantablack. It reflects a mere 0.036% of the light that shines upon it. Because of its unusual quality, it's ideal for use in the manufacture of certain sensors, cameras, and scientific instruments. Unfortunately, an artist named Anish Kapoor owns exclusive rights to use it in the art world. No other artists are allowed to incorporate Vantablack into their creations. I trust you will NOT follow Kapoor's selfish example in the coming weeks. In my astrological opinion, it's crucial that you share your prime gifts, your special skills, and your unique blessings with the whole world. Do not hoard!

**♌ LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Hi, my name is Rob Brezсны, and I confess that I am addicted to breathing air, eating food, drinking water, indulging in sleep, and getting high on organic, free-trade, slavery-free dark chocolate. I also confess that I am powerless over these addictions. Now I invite you to be inspired by my silly example and undertake a playful but serious effort to face up to your own fixations. The astrological omens suggest it's a perfect moment to do so. What are you addicted to? What habits are you entranced by? What conditioned responses are you enslaved to? What traps have you agreed to be snared by? The time is right to identify these compulsions, then make an audacious break for freedom.

**♍ VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When cherries are nearing the end of their ripening process, they are especially vulnerable. If rain falls on them during those last few weeks, they can rot or split, rendering them unmarketable. So cherry-growers hire helicopter pilots to hover over their trees right after it rains, using the downdraft from the blades to dry the valuable little fruits. It may seem like overkill, but it's the method that works best. I advise you to be on the lookout for similar protective measures during the climactic phase of your personal ripening process. Your motto should be to take care of your valuables by any means necessary.

**♎ LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Please don't try to relax. Don't shy away from challenges. Don't apologize for your holy quest or tone down your ambition or stop pushing to get better. Not now, anyway, Libra. Just the opposite, in fact. I urge you to pump up the volume on your desires. Be even bigger and bolder and braver. Take maximum advantage of the opportunities that are arising, and cash in on the benevolent conspiracies that are swirling in your vicinity. Now is one of those exceptional moments when tough competition is actually healthy for you, when the pressure to outdo your previous efforts can be tonic and inspiring.

**♏ SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I can't decide whether to compare your imminent future to a platypus, kaleidoscope, patchwork quilt, or Swiss army knife. From what I can tell, your adventures could bring you random jumbles or melodic mēlanges—or a blend of both. So I'm expecting provocative teasers, pure flukes, and multiple options. There'll be crazy wisdom, alluring messes, and unclassifiable opportunities. To ensure that your life is more of an intriguing riddle than a confusing maze, I suggest that you stay closely attuned to what you're really feeling and thinking, and communicate that information with tactful precision.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Every year, thousands of people all over the world go to hospital emergency rooms seeking relief from kidney stones. Many of the treatments are invasive and painful. But in recent years, a benign alternative has emerged. A peer-reviewed article in a scientific journal presented evidence that many patients spontaneously pass their kidney stones simply by riding on roller coasters. I doubt that you'll have a literal problem like kidney stones in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. But I do suspect that any psychological difficulties you encounter can be solved by embarking on thrilling adventures akin to riding on roller coasters.

**♑ CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In his book *The Histories*, ancient Greek historian Herodotus told the story of a six-year war between the armies of the Medes and the Lydians in an area that today corresponds to Turkey. The conflict ended suddenly on a day when a solar eclipse occurred. Everyone on the battlefield got spooked as the light unexpectedly dimmed, and commanders sought an immediate cease to the hostilities. In the spirit of cosmic portents precipitating practical truces, I suggest you respond to the upcoming lunar eclipse on July 16-17 with overtures of peace and healing and amnesty. It'll be a good time to reach out to any worthwhile person or group from whom you have been alienated.

**♒ AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): My astrological colleague Guru Gwen believes that right now Aquarians should get scolded and penalized unless they agree to add more rigor and discipline to their rhythms. On the other hand, my astrological colleague Maestro Madelyn feels that Aquarians need to have their backs massaged, their hands held, and their problems listened to with grace and empathy. I suppose that both Gwen and Madelyn want to accomplish the same thing, which is to get you back on track. But personally, I'm more in favor of Madelyn's approach than Gwen's.

**♓ PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): As a self-taught rebel poet with few formal credentials, I may not have much credibility when I urge you to get yourself better licensed and certified and sanctioned. But according to my analysis of the astrological omens, the coming months will be a favorable time for you to make plans to get the education or training you're lacking; to find out what it would mean to become more professional, and then become more professional; to begin pursuing the credentials that will earn you more power to fulfill your dreams.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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61							62				63			
64							65				66			

DOUBLE CURVES

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Water balloon sound effect
- 6 Summer party, for short
- 9 “Super Bowl Shuffle” group
- 14 Team building?
- 15 Columbus sch.
- 16 Cancel
- 17 Group doing downward facing dog?
- 19 A \_\_\_ Called Quest
- 20 Beyond Meat’s was on May 2, 2019
- 21 SASE, e.g.
- 22 Bro
- 23 Chain that serves Shivers
- 25 Riverside where one does gliding steps?
- 29 Give a speech
- 31 “\_\_\_ jacket is this?”
- 32 Kind of acid
- 33 Can opener transaction?
- 34 Legal grp.
- 37 Garcon’s line after handing a patron a menu with the heading “La Mer”?
- 41 “This isn’t good!”
- 42 Competes (for)
- 43 With a heavy chest
- 44 Green of Gnarl’s Barkley
- 46 Former NBA star \_\_\_ Okafor
- 47 Hottie that eats only the last course?
- 51 Sunscreen ingredient
- 53 Steel beam
- 54 “Wasn’t expecting that zinger”

- 56 “How absolutely dare you, \_\_\_!”
- 57 First aid kit stuff
- 58 Artificial chocolate concoction made by scientists?
- 61 Say
- 62 Spanish peeper
- 63 Lines on a neck
- 64 Words of Wordsworth
- 65 Direction
- 66 Early responder’s comment on some threads

Down

- 1 “Cat got your tongue?”
- 2 One with a thing for jokes?
- 3 Toy block
- 4 “Los Espookys” star/creator Fabrega
- 5 Sticky stuff
- 6 Big name in home appliances
- 7 Talks trash, briefly
- 8 Jose’s “huh?”
- 9 Sits in the tub
- 10 Dress, as a judge
- 11 2019 Thom Yorke album
- 12 Apply, as ointment
- 13 Very fast
- 18 Back in the day
- 24 Hard pull
- 26 Onto
- 27 Harbor sights
- 28 “Free \_\_\_” (2019 Best Documentary)
- 30 Trifle (with)
- 32 Shrink’s org.

- 33 Created
- 34 Suck-up
- 35 Ones with growing concerns?
- 36 “They all look good”
- 38 Up above
- 39 Big Wimbledon sponsor
- 40 Red Sea canal
- 44 Battery and bra specifications
- 45 Where congers are caught
- 46 Highly questionable problem?
- 47 Unearth
- 48 Muse that carries a kithara
- 49 Cook with some olive oil, say
- 50 “That’s not good”
- 52 Wave part
- 55 “Danny and the Dinosaur” author Syd
- 58 A/C setting
- 59 “How to Get Away With Murder” star \_\_\_ Naomi King
- 60 Switzerland canton

Last Week’s Answer

M	A	D	G	E	V	I	S	A	C	O	C	O
E	Q	U	A	L	E	V	E	S	A	N	O	N
M	U	D	S	L	I	D	E	W	H	I	S	T
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J	O	E	Y	C	H	R	O	M	O	S	O	M
E	R	N	E	S	K	A	R	T	I	L	K	
S	A	D	R	F	R	A	N	K	C	A	T	O
S	L	O	D	E	E	P	D	A	M	O	N	
			B	R	E	W	S	K	I	J	U	M
				L	E	S	T	E	N	Z	O	
E	D	D	I	E				W	W	I	E	A
D	I	R	T	B	A	G	O	F	T	R	I	C
G	L	U	E		P	E	E	R		P	R	E
E	L	M	S		P	E	S	O		M	A	R



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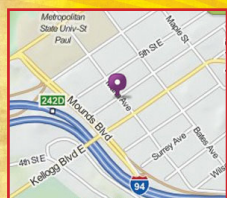
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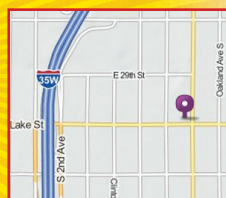
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## SAVAGE LOVE

# Quickies

...what's the "sucker" getting out of it?

**M**y fiancé and I have been in a relationship for 11 years. His best friend is one of his exes, and that has always bothered me. What do I do?

NEEDING GUIDANCE AFTER  
GETTING ENGAGED

**You could make up** your mind to get over it, NGAGE. Or you could threaten to break off the engagement unless your fiancé cuts his best friend out of his life. That would be an asshole move—that would be an emotionally manipulative asshole power move. But, hey, you wouldn't be the first person to wait for the moment of maximum leverage before telling your partner that, despite what you led them to believe (or allowed them to assume), they are going to have to choose between their best friend(s) and the person they're about to marry or just married. Fair warning: If you issue that ultimatum and your fiancé (or husband) writes in and asks me what to do, I'm going to tell him to leave you.

*I'm a 58-year-old happily married gay man, and I have a well-hidden kink that I've had since childhood: I get off on destructive, city-smashing giants—think of Godzilla as a muscular man smashing things with his dick. Since this is impossible to realize, I rely on drawings and other images. After Tumblr removed the adult content, I found my way to newer websites. Some featured manga-style drawings of giant prepubescent boys. I've NEVER experienced any attraction to children, but these cartoons are a turn-on. Does lusting after cartoon images of boys make me a pedophile?*

FREAKY EROTIC ART REQUIRES  
SERIOUS SELF-SCRUTINY

**If you aren't sexually** attracted to children, FEARSSS, you aren't a pedophile. Pedophilia is not something a non-pedophile drifts into after viewing a little squicky manga. Pedophilia, according to the best and most current research, is a hardwired sexual orientation—one that can never be acted on for moral and ethical reasons. That said, I would urge you to avoid viewing or downloading this stuff. It's illegal in the United States (and lots of other places) to possess drawings or computer-generated images of children that depict "a minor engaging in sexually-explicit conduct," per federal law. I don't know whether your local prosecutor would consider



Dan Savage

viewing drawings of giant prepubescent boys smashing buildings with their dicks as a criminal offense, but I'm sure you don't want to find out. Avoid those websites.

*I understand the pleasure received by the "suckee," but I need help understanding what benefit or pleasure the "sucker" derives from the exchange. Is it the taste of come?*

CONFUSION OVER  
COCKY KNOBBLERS

**We do it for the glory, COCK**, and that warm feeling that comes over us when we can look up and say, "Emission accomplished." (Sorry about that.)

*I'm a bi guy in my late 20s. I date women and occasionally hook up with guys. In between, I have toys. My question has to do with something that happens when I'm using a dildo and stimulating my prostate: During intense stimulation... I pee (I think)? My confusion lies in the fact that what comes out is clear and doesn't smell like urine. I know there's a debate about female squirting and whether it's urine, but I'm still very confused. But is this normal for a man? Should I worry?*

LEAKING EVERYWHERE AND  
KNOWING IT'S NOT GOOD

**Your dildo isn't just stimulating** your prostate gland, which produces the milky fluid that comes flying out of your cock when you ejaculate, but your Cowper's glands as well. The Cowper's glands are located just under your prostate and they produce a clear fluid, aka "pre-come," that basically flushes out your urethra during arousal. Urine is acidic, and acids can harm sperm cells. So pre-come neutralizes whatever acids might be lurking in your urethra—basically, pre-come makes sure your urethra is a safe space for your sperm cells. Some men produce very little pre-come, some men produce buckets of it, and some men produce more under particular circumstances. Don't worry, LEAKING, just enjoy.

**mail@savagelove.net**

Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage  
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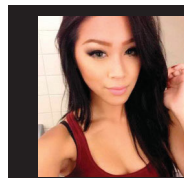
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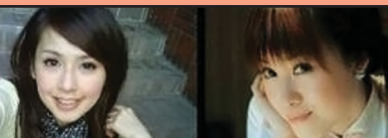
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